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MESSAGE FROM KALANI

This year marks my 19th year in the Hawai'i State Senate and I am humbled to have the opportunity to continue serving the people of Hāna, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i. Preparations have already begun in anticipation of the first biennium of the 30th Legislature that opens on January 16. I look forward to a prosperous new year and a productive legislative session as we endeavor to improve the lives for all those who call Maui Nui home.

SENATOR J.KALANI ENGLISH

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 7TH DISTRICT

HĀNA, EAST AND UPCOUNTRY MAUI,
MOLOKA'I, LĀNA'I AND KAHO'OLAWÉ

Our Goals Are
Global Goals



We are committed to
addressing the needs of
the people of Hawai'i.

THE HAWAI'I STATE SENATE 2019 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

During the Regular Session of 2018, Sen. English introduced **SB 2661**, which was to codify the State's commitment to conservation, sustainability and economic development by including the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with references to existing state sustainability programs, in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

In furtherance of this objective, the 2019 Senate Legislative Program highlights the seven goals that will be targeted during the first year of the Thirtieth Legislature, which promptly begins on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. The seven goals are:

Goal 3: Guaranteeing good health and well-being by ensuring and improving access to quality health care and mental health services, controlling the opioid epidemic, and improving traffic safety measures.

Goal 4: Achieving quality education by guaranteeing that all children have access to equitable and quality preschool, primary, secondary, and higher education, and providing the necessary facilities and equipment to create a comfortable and resourceful learning environment.

Goal 8: Promoting decent work, economic growth, and career pathways; supporting sustainable working environments for employers and employees; and exploring various ways to generate revenue for the State.

Goal 11: Exploring efficient and effective options that will provide access to adequate,

safe, and affordable housing, support efficient design and implementation of transit-oriented development, and modernize our airports to increase livability and resilience through implementation of smart, sustainable communities.

Goal 12: Advocating for responsible consumption and production by promoting sound management of all wastes, reducing harmful substances in the environment, and facilitating conversion of cesspools statewide.

Goal 16: Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and encouraging good policy and governance by holding institutions at all levels accountable.

Goal 17: Encouraging partnerships between government, the private sector, and civil society to enhance statewide economic prosperity and policy coherence for sustainable development.

"Hawai'i is recognized as a global leader in addressing sustainability and climate change challenges, building on a history of systems-thinking and traditional knowledge," notes Sen. English. "These 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals will reinforce the efforts of the Senate to build a more resilient future for Hawai'i."

For full Senate Legislative Program go to: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/docs/2019/HILegProgram.pdf>

FOAM FREE MAUI COUNTY

In 2010, Maui was the first County in the State to legislate a ban on plastic bags, which eventually led to the passage of similar bills throughout the State. In May 2017, County Council members unanimously voted to restrict the use of polystyrene foam in food service. Thus, it was the second time Maui would lead in regulating the proliferation of a single-item plastic commodity.

The ban took effect on Dec. 31, 2018. Prior to this the County's Division of Environmental Protection & Sustainability embarked on a Foam Free Maui County campaign to educate the general public, restaurateurs, and retailers on the transition from polystyrene products to reusable or compostable alternatives. Part of the educational information included the types of containers that are banned or excluded and the penalties for non-compliance.

The effort to restrict use of polystyrene foam in food service began in 2009 when Mayor Mike Victorino, then a councilmember, introduced a draft bill to regulate its use and sale. His measure did not gain momentum and failed. Victorino re-introduced the measure in 2014 and volunteered to convene



a task force of stakeholders to conduct an in-depth review of the bill's purpose, scope, impacts, and exemptions.

Business groups opposed the bill arguing that polystyrene is approved by the Food and Drug Administration, it would impose financial hardships on businesses, and that a law is not needed since industry trends showed food-service providers were already transitioning to alternatives.

Environmental task force members recommended following the lead of about 100 other municipalities in addressing disposable food service wares, clarified which products would be covered, and suggested providing time for food providers and retailers to make the transition. They refuted that the costs of alternatives were a burden. More impor-

tantly, they stated that eliminating polystyrene would improve our environment and quality of life, and cited supporting language in the Maui Island Plan. Finally, after months of testimony, amendments, and debate, the council unanimously agreed to pass the bill, and set a phase-in date of Nov. 18, 2018.

It is estimated that 1 to 2 million tons of plastic are entering the ocean each year. More than half of this plastic is less dense than water, that means it will not sink in the ocean. The stronger, more buoyant plastics show resiliency in the marine environment, allowing them to be transported over extended distances. They persist at the sea surface as they make their way offshore, transported by converging currents and finally accumulating in a major ocean plastic accumulation zone between California and Hawai'i.

"It is imperative that we take action to reduce our plastic consumption," said Sen. English. "We have all seen the devastating effect upon wildlife that come from eating or becoming entangled in plastic debris and in Hawai'i it is a common occurrence. We must all do something to stop this trend."

ALEXANDER & BALDWIN SELLS MAUI LANDS TO MAHI PONO

Alexander & Baldwin (A&B) recently announced an agreement that will launch a new era of agriculture on Maui. The agreement provides for the sale of the former Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company lands to Mahi Pono, LLC for purposes of cultivating a variety of food and energy crops, ensuring the continued agricultural use of these lands, preserving green, open space in Central Maui, and a consistent and long-term source of revenue for the local economy.

All of A&B's existing agricultural personnel will be offered positions with Mahi Pono. Their farm plan includes cultivating a broad range of food crops for local consumption and export, including coffee, various fruit and vegetable crops and an expansion of A&B's grass-fed cattle project at Kulolio Ranch, which Mahi Pono purchased

as part of this transaction. Mahi Pono also purchased Central Maui Feedstocks, A&B's energy crop project, and assumed all diversified agriculture leases previously entered into by A&B.

Under the terms of the agreement, Mahi Pono purchased approximately 41,000 acres of agricultural farm land from A&B, along with the companies mentioned above. The \$262 million transaction closed on December 20. A&B and Mahi Pono also will partner in the ownership and management of East Maui Irrigation Company.

Mahi Pono is a farming venture between Pomona Farming, LLC, a California-based agricultural group, and the Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investments), a long-term investor and one of Canada's largest pension investment manag-

ers. The organization has significant experience cultivating diverse agricultural crops and managing cattle operations on more than 100,000 acres, with a focus purely on agriculture and a track record of making long-term investments in farming projects.

"I am pleased that Mahi Pono and Alexander & Baldwin have found a way to keep these lands in productive agricultural use," said Sen. English. "It is vital that we recognize these decisions as more than economic; they have a fundamental impact on the quality of life on our island and across the State. We look forward to working with Mahi Pono as good neighbors, and hope to share a long and serious commitment to Maui's bright future."

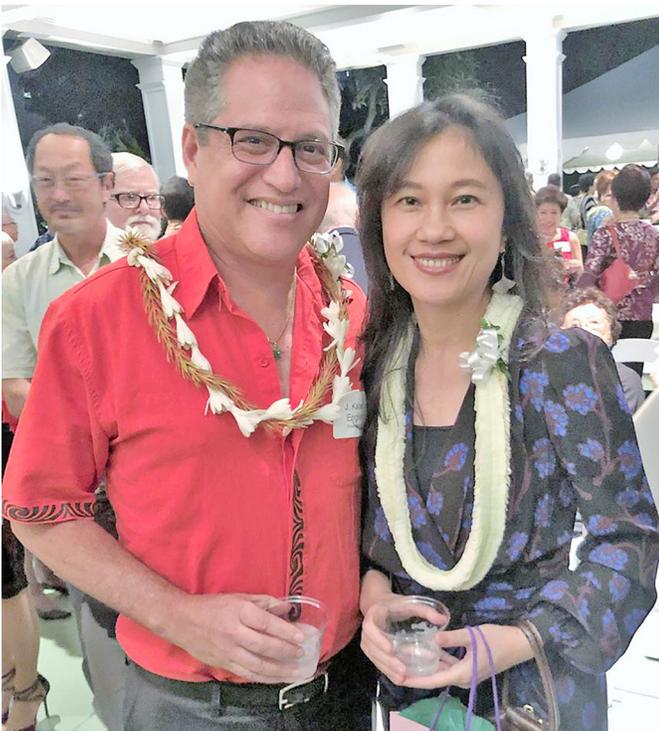
HAWAII CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN

GRANT-IN-AID APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE



Sen. English and over 200 people gathered on December 18th at Washington Place to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Hawaii's Sister State Relationship with Taiwan. Kolas Yotaka, Taiwan's first indigenous Executive Yuan spokesperson and Ambassador James Moriarty of the American Institute in Taiwan attended the event to mark the special occasion.

"The indigenous peoples of Hawaii and Taiwan share many similarities that connect us culturally and linguistically," said Sen. English. "It's important for us to recognize these inherent commonalities as we continue to foster our close relationship between our two governments."



Hawaii Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Sister State Relationship with Taiwan.

Above: Members of the public at the Washington Place celebration. Honolulu, HI. December 18, 2018.

Left: Sen. English with Taiwan's Executive Yuan Spokesperson Kolas Yotaka following her keynote address. Honolulu, HI. December 18, 2018.

The 2019 Grant-In-Aid applications are now available on the Legislature's website.

The deadline to submit applications is 4:30 pm, Friday, January 18, 2019.

For more information and the application, please visit <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/GIA/GIA.aspx>

A grant is an award of State funds to any organization or person to support their activities to benefit the community.

FUNDS RELEASED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

\$5,000,000 were recently released for the development and expansion of the Kula Agricultural park in Upcountry Maui.

\$1,500,000 were recently released for improvements to roadway access and to provide water and electrical services to the Nā'iwa Subdivision on Moloka'i.

\$1,500,000 were recently released for native dryland forest replanting on Kaho'olawe.

\$600,000 were recently released for the construction of a covered playcourt at Makawao Elementary School on Maui.

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COMMITTEES

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on Technology

Member, Senate Committee
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Member, Senate Committee
on Ways & Means



Hawai'i State Legislature
Bill Status and Documents
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OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (OHA)
WELCOME TWO NEW TRUSTEES



On December 11th, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs welcomed two new members to their Board of Trustees. Sen. English was one of the invited guests who attended the Investiture Ceremony at Washington Place to witness the swearing in of the two new trustees, Kalei Akaka and Brendon Kalei'āina Lee. Trustees John Waihe'e IV and Hulu Lindsey were re-elected to the nine-member board and was also honored at the event.

"Both Trustee Lee and Trustee Akaka come from families who have selflessly served the Hawaiian community for decades and I am confident in their ability to be contributing members of the agency," said Sen. English. "I look forward to working with them and the rest of the Board of Trustees in helping OHA achieves its mission of improving the well-being of all Native Hawaiians."



Above: Sen. English and OHA Trustee Board Chair Collette Machado enjoying a hula performance at the OHA Investiture Luncheon. Honolulu, HI. December 11, 2018.

Right: Sen. English with newly elected Trustee At-Large Brendon Kalei'āina Lee. Honolulu, HI. December 18, 2018.

Bottom: Sen. English with new O'ahu Trustee Kalei Akaka, Auntie Millie and the rest of the Akaka 'ohana. Honolulu, HI. December 18, 2018.

